

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

CHARLES BROWN,

Plaintiff,

v.

S.H. WONG,

Defendant.

Case No. 2:20-cv-01673-JAM-JDP (PC)

ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFF'S MOTIONS  
TO APPOINT COUNSEL

ECF Nos. 48, 50

Plaintiff is a state prisoner proceeding without counsel in this civil rights action brought under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. He has filed two identical motions asking that he be appointed counsel. ECF Nos. 48, 50.

Plaintiff does not have a constitutional right to appointed counsel in this action, *see Rand v. Rowland*, 113 F.3d 1520, 1525 (9th Cir. 1997), and the court lacks the authority to require an attorney to represent plaintiff. *See Mallard v. U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa*, 490 U.S. 296, 298 (1989). The court may request the voluntary assistance of counsel. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1) (“The court may request an attorney to represent any person unable to afford counsel”); *Rand*, 113 F.3d at 1525. However, without means of compensating counsel, the court will seek volunteer counsel only in exceptional circumstances. In determining whether such circumstances exist, “the district court must evaluate both the likelihood of success on the merits

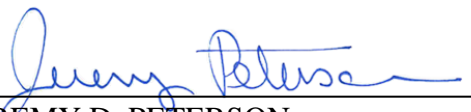
1 [and] the ability of the [plaintiff] to articulate his claims pro se in light of the complexity of the  
2 legal issues involved.” *Rand*, 113 F.3d at 1525 (internal quotation marks and citations omitted).

3 The court cannot conclude that exceptional circumstances requiring the appointment of  
4 counsel are present here. The allegations in the complaint are not exceptionally complicated.  
5 Further, plaintiff has not demonstrated that he is likely to succeed on the merits. For these  
6 reasons, plaintiff’s motions to appoint counsel, ECF Nos. 48 & 50, are denied without prejudice.

7 The court may revisit this issue at a later stage of the proceedings if the interests of justice  
8 so require. If plaintiff later renews his request for counsel, he should provide a detailed  
9 explanation of the circumstances that he believes justify appointment of counsel in this case.

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11 IT IS SO ORDERED.

12 Dated: July 21, 2021

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14 JEREMY D. PETERSON  
15 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
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